

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-16 and add Claim 17 as follows; please note that double brackets ("[[]]) have been used to indicate deletion of some text:

1. (Currently Amended) A seal arrangement for reducing the seal gaps within a rotary flow machine, ~~preferably an axial turbomachine, the seal arrangement comprising:~~

[[[-]]] ~~having rotor blades and guide vanes, which are respectively arranged in at least one rotor blade row and at least one guide vane row, respectively, each row including a fastening contour, and each rotor blade and guide vane have respective blade/vane having blade roots (2, 3) and vane roots which protrude into fastening contours within the rotor blade rows and guide vane rows, respectively;~~

[[[-]]] ~~the blade/vane blade roots (2, 3) and vane roots each having a respective platform (7, 8, 21, 31);~~

[[[-]]] ~~a sealing element (4) in comprising a plastically deformable material being provided positioned~~

~~between at least two platforms (7, 8, 21, 31) of adjacent blade/vane blade roots (2, 3) and vane roots~~

~~along a rotor blade row, or~~

~~along a guide vane row, or~~

~~between a platform (7, 8, 21, 31) of a blade/vane blade root (2, 3) of a rotor blade or guide vane root and a rotary flow machine component when directly adjoining the platform (7, 8, 21, 31);~~

[[[-]]] ~~the sealing element (4) being firmly connected to at least one platform (7, 8, 21, 31) at least and having a thickness protruding from the surface of the at least one platform (7, 8, 21, 31), characterized in that;~~

[[[-]]] ~~the said at least two adjacent platforms (7, 8, 21, 31) or the said platform (7, 8, 21, 31) and the said component when directly adjoining the platform (7, 8, 21, 31) enclose a cold gap s_c in the a cold condition and a hot gap s_w in the a hot condition during operation of the rotary flow machine.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized~~

~~in that the connection of wherein the sealing element (4) is connected to the platform (7, 8, 21, 31) is with a brazed/soldered-brazed connection, soldered connection, or bonded connection.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that

~~[[-]]] wherein the sealing element (4) is applied to a platform as a layer material to a platform (7, 8, 21, 31) by means of a precipitation process; and~~

~~[[-]]] in that wherein the sealing element (4) and the said platform (7, 8, 21, 31) enter into form a metallurgical combination.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that ~~wherein the sealing element (4) is configured and arranged as a layer material can be capable of being applied by flame spraying, galvanic precipitation, or by plating onto the platform (7, 8, 21, 31).~~

5. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in ~~[[one of claims 1 to 4]]~~ claim 1, characterized in that ~~wherein the plastically deformable material (4) is comprises a sintered metal, a metal foam, or a porous metallic coating.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that ~~wherein the sintered metal is comprises a homogeneously baked combination from NiAl, FeAl, or CoAl.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that ~~wherein the metal foam is one containing comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ni, Co, and/or Al, and combinations thereof.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein the porous metallic coating exhibits comprises MCrAlY, where wherein M is a metal selected from the group consisting of Ni, Co, or and Fe.

9. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the following applies: wherein

$$S_w \ll S_c.$$

10. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that wherein the sealing element is configured and arranged so that, when a contact pressure present between two platforms (7, 8, 21, 31) or between the platform (7, 8, 21, 31) and the said component when directly adjoining the platform (7, 8, 21, 31) is exceeded in the hot condition of the rotary flow machine, the sealing element (4) deforms plastically in order to form a minimum hot gap S_w .

11. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that further comprising:

a seal gap enclosed by both platforms or by the platform and the component when directly adjoining the platform, the seal gap defining a plane; and
wherein the sealing element is configured and arranged so that the plastic deformation of the sealing element (4) takes place substantially laterally relative to the plane of at the seal gap (5, 6) enclosed by both platforms (7, 8, 21, 31) or by the platform (7, 8, 21, 31) and the component directly adjoining the platform (7, 8, 21, 31).

12. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that wherein the rotor blades and guide vanes each comprise an aerofoil, and wherein the sealing element (4) has a wedge-shaped configuration and in that the portion including a thicker wedge end (42) is oriented to be facing toward the blade/vane

aerofoils.

13. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~
~~claim 1, characterized in that wherein the rotor blades and guide vanes each comprise an aerofoil, and wherein the platforms (7, 8, 21, 31) or the platform (7, 8, 21, 31) and the component when directly adjoining the platform (7, 8, 21, 31) have a contour protruding into one another, the sealing element (4) being provided positioned at least on the-a contour part facing toward the blade/vane aerofoils.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 13~~
~~claim 1, characterized in that further comprising:~~

~~at least one cooling duct (72, 82) is provided which opens opening from the platform (7, 8, 21, 31) in the region of the sealing element (4).~~

15. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~
~~claim 1, characterized in that further comprising:~~

~~a sealing protrusion (74) is provided on the platform (7, 8, 21, 31), opposite the sealing element (4).~~

16. (Currently Amended) The seal arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 15~~
~~claim 1, characterized in that further comprising:~~

~~the said component of the rotary flow machine adjoining the platform (7, 8, 21, 31) is including an intermediate piece, in the form of comprising a distance piece, or a heat insulation segment.~~

17. (New) The seal arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein said rotary flow machine comprises an axial turbomachine.